

# THE LYNN JOURNAL

Thursday, April 16, 2020



## Jordan Avery ready to move forward at Mass. Green Retail cannabis store

Special To The Journal

A judge has dismissed a lawsuit the town of Saugus filed last year in an effort to block a cannabis retail store from opening in Lynn near the Saugus town line.

The dismissal will allow Massachusetts Green Retail to move



Jordan Avery, president and CEO of Massachusetts Green Retail, is pictured outside the building at 829A Boston Street where he will be opening a cannabis retail store.

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## Halloran will make decision on Agganis All-Star week

By Cary Shuman

Paul Halloran, executive director of the Harry Agganis Classics for two decades, said he will make a decision in May on whether the nine Agganis All-Star Games will be held in June.

Due to the COVID-19 global pandemic, high school sports have been on hold this spring. The MIAA has postponed the spring sports starting date twice to May 4.

“Certainly by the end of April and likely before then, we’ll have a decision,” said Halloran.

He said a lot of scenarios will be considered before making a decision on holding the Agganis Games, in which more than 300 area seniors compete in nine separate contests, including the Agganis Football Game, the granddaddy of all high school all-star games in Massachusetts.

“It’s not that we would need schools to resume, but the ques-

tion is: By the fourth week of June, are there going to be public gatherings by that point?”

“Certainly no one can say with any certainty that there would be,” said Halloran. “It would be great to see the Games held, because it might be a case of people yearning to see high school sporting events.”

Four of the All-Star games involve spring sports: baseball,

Please see ALL-STAR Page 3

## At East Boston Savings Bank, safety for all comes first

By John Lynds

East Boston Savings Bank Chairman and CEO Richard Gavegnano said each relationship the bank has with employees, customers, and the communities the bank serves matters to him greatly.

So as the public health concern surrounding COVID-19 grows the bank has been keeping its staff and customers informed on the precautionary steps EBSB has been taking.

“We are working hard to do everything we can to be prepared

and the safety of our employees and customers is the most important thing,” said Gavegnano. “We are providing gloves, masks, sanitizer, and practicing social distancing. Any employee feeling they cannot work due to any medical issues or family needs can work from home and we are paying all these employees.”

To protect both staff and customers, Gavegnano said EBSB branches with drive thru service are open and branches that don’t are open by appointment.

“We have the branches staffed to handle all regular business,”

said Gavegnano. “If any branch has no drive thru they can call and get in to see the manager but for safety of our staff and customers only one person is let into the branch at a time.”

Gavegnano said the bank is also monitoring all its employees for signs or symptoms of illness and has a constant open line of communications with branch staff.

“We are also responding to the needs of the communities we serve,” he said. “We are taking deposits, opening checking ac-

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## NSCC Trustees vote SSU’s Dr. Nate Bryant Interim President

Special to the Journal

Dr. Nate Bryant, Vice President and Chief of Staff to President John Keenan at Salem State University, was unanimously approved to become North Shore Community College’s Interim President when current President Dr. Patricia A. Gentile retires in July.

NSCC’s Board of Trustees interviewed Dr. Bryant in a special virtual public meeting on Thursday, April 9th, from 4- 6 pm. and debated his candidacy at a regular meeting on April 14 after which they voted to support his candidacy, which must now be approved by the state Commissioner of Higher Education Dr. Carlos Santiago. If confirmed, Dr. Bryant’s term will begin in early July 2020.

Dr. Bryant has 30+ years of experience in public higher education, including senior-level leadership in enrollment management, student support services, and fundraising. He is a longtime resident of Salem and civic leader in the region, serving on the boards of the North Shore Medical Center, Salem Chamber of Commerce, and Marblehead Bank, among other organizations.



Dr. Nate Bryant.

He holds a doctorate of education from the University of Massachusetts-Boston and his bachelor’s and master’s degrees from Salem State.

“Everything I have done has prepared me to be the president of North Shore Community College and I am humbled and honored to be considered for this position. I am interested in providing better opportunities for our students and seeing that they achieve their goals, whatever those may be,” Dr. Bryant said.

“We have a very challenging road ahead and the task of leadership is not up to the Interim President alone. We must all share the mantle of leadership in light of

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# EDITORIAL

## A LIGHT AT THE END OF THE TUNNEL?

The United States now is the official epicenter of the coronavirus pandemic.

We have more deaths and more cases of disease than anywhere else in the world.

However, this past weekend the experts began to give us a glimmer of hope that we are turning the tide against this dreaded foe and the possibility that our lives may return to some semblance of normality in incremental steps within 30-60 days.

We are the first to concede that there are many “ifs” to any discussion of ending the shutdown of the U.S. economy and the present lockdown mandates currently in place throughout most of the nation. A vast increase in testing in order to identify both virus carriers and those who may have immunity will be essential before we can begin to emerge meaningfully from our life of quarantine.

It also is clear that even with some sort easing of the lockdowns, life still will be far from normal: Schools most likely will remain closed for the rest of this school year, professional sports will not take place anytime soon, public gatherings of all kinds will be banned, and the travel industry will continue to be in a state of non-existence indefinitely.

But the experts’ insights about the possibility of some degree of easing of our current situation brought to mind the famous words of Winston Churchill amidst the worst days of World War II when Nazi Germany’s advance had been stopped by England with the defeat of Rommel at El Alamein:

“Now this is not the end. It is not even the beginning of the end. But it is, perhaps, the end of the beginning.”

Our war against the coronavirus still has a long way to go. But with the outbreaks and death toll dropping in many places around the world, including New York City, perhaps we can see a pinhole of light in the long, dark tunnel in which we find ourselves.

## SO LET’S TALK ABOUT THE WEATHER

The weather this April has been full of irony. We had mild months for January, February, and March, with above-average temperatures (among the warmest on record) and few storms of any consequence.

However, April has been anything but spring-like. Temperatures have been below normal and two fierce storms, including this past Monday’s, left many of us without power.

So although April thus far has ranged from seasonably unpleasant to rather ferocious, weather-wise, at least it has provided us with a diversion from our preoccupation with the coronavirus.

## THE LYNN JOURNAL

**PRESIDENT:** Stephen Quigley

**EDITOR IN CHIEF:** Cary Shuman cary@lynnjournal.com

PHONE 781-485-0588 // FAX 781-485-1403

EMAIL: EDITOR@LYNNJOURNAL.COM

WEB SITE: WWW.LYNNJOURNAL.COM

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## GUEST OP-ED

## Easter is about being surprised by Joy, it’s also about sharing the good news and the joy

By Cardinal Seán Patrick O’Malley

There is a Franciscan tradition that the risen Christ appeared first of all to his mother. It would’ve been a very private, intimate setting, not documented in the Gospels. The Gospels do not record every incident in Jesus’s life. His encounter with Mary is a tradition supported by the logic of love and devotion. Hence in many Spanish-speaking countries the Easter procession is called the Encuentro, the meeting of Jesus and Mary. Typically, the men accompany the statue of the risen Christ and in another procession the women accompany the statue of the sorrowful mother. When the two processions meet the black mantle covering the sorrowful mother is removed and underneath Mary is wearing a beautiful white raiment that the betokens the joy of Easter. The same mystery, or event, the meeting of Jesus and Mary after the Resurrection is the sixth joyful mystery of the Franciscan rosary.

However, in the Gospels when they want to record Jesus first meeting, they chose to cast Mary Magdalene in that role. Jesus said he came to call sinners and so it is very fitting that the first apparition recorded in the gospel is to a woman who had been possessed by seven devils. Likewise, the last apparition of the risen Christ in the New Testament is to a sinner called to conversion, Saul. The risen Christ appears to the Pharisee Saul who is persecuting the Christians in Damascus. The risen Christ says to Saul who was later St. Paul the apostle, “, Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?” These words were an invitation to St. Paul to realize that when you persecute the church you are persecuting Christ, because the Church and Christ are one. Later on, Paul in his epistles describes the church is the body of Christ. Paul is converted by this encounter with the risen Christ, and because he has seen the risen Christ Paul becomes himself an apostle in a community of forgiven sinners.

Mary Magdalene is also been called an apostle because of her

encounter with the risen Lord. When Peter and the apostles fled into the witness protection program, Mary Magdalene followed Jesus all the way to Calvary. It is interesting to note that so often when artist depict the crucifixion scene, they show the blessed mother standing on one side of the cross, John the beloved disciple standing on the other side of the cross, and in the center, kneeling clinging to Jesus’s feet is the figure of Mary Magdalene. When Lazarus sister Mary sat at Jesus feet listening to his words while Martha prepared the meal. Martha complained but Jesus said Mary has chosen the best part it will not be taken away from her. The best part for the disciple is to be at the feet of the master, always learning, always attentive, always near.

Today’s gospel begins with Mary Magdalene setting out before dawn to visit the tomb of Jesus. She had to wait until the Sabbath was over to be able to walk that distance. When she gets there she discovers that the tomb has been opened and the body is gone. She is distressed, surely thinking that the tomb has been desecrated by enemies of Jesus. Overcome with grief she runs to the city to tell Peter and John what she has found. I hate to say this, but I don’t think Peter and John would’ve gone to the tomb on Easter Sunday had they not been shamed into it by Mary Magdalene and her report that the tomb was empty. They were too busy practicing social distancing and were so frightened of the possibility of being discovered that I’m sure they would gladly have worn facemasks.

The three of them rush back to the tomb. It was a journey of faith for the three of them. When they saw the borrowed tomb where Joseph of Arimathea had buried Jesus, they were experiencing the first signs of the Resurrection that come with the new light of day as they move out of darkness and unbelief. We see Peter and John entering the tomb with Mary Magdalene. In my office I have a photograph of the holy sepulcher, that very same tomb where I celebrated mass

with the group a Boston priest, packed in there like sardines. It was a thrilling experience to enter the empty tomb and know that our Redeemer lives. He has conquered sin and death. In the photograph you can see that the tomb is crowded with joyful disciples because the master is risen and is alive.

Today’s Gospel says that when John saw the burial cloth and the cloth that covered Jesus’s head folded in a separate place, he begins to believe, even though the disciples did not yet understand the Scripture that Christ had to rise from the dead. After this, the gospel records that John and Peter returned to the city where later that same day, the risen Lord will seek them out with the other apostles in their hiding place.

But Mary Magdalene who followed Jesus through the way of the cross, who clung to the foot of the cross on Calvary, who participated in his burial, who was the first to arrive on Easter morning at the tomb, she did not leave. She was not going anywhere. It was then that the risen Christ appeared to her, to Mary Magdalene, his first official apparition on Easter Sunday. He called her by name, and immediately she threw herself at his feet and cling to his feet, just as she had done at Calvary. Always the posture of the faithful disciple. But having seen the risen Christ and heard his words, she becomes his apostle sent to take the good news to the other apostles that the tomb is empty because Jesus is alive, risen from the dead. No one stole His body.

The power of the Resurrection changes one’s prospective and how we see life. We no longer need to fear death. Knowing the Resurrection means receiving a mission to live the life of the Resurrection and witness to the world that Christ lives, he loves us, he forgives us, he redeems us. The church exists to witness this great truth of Easter. Without Easter there is no church.

Easter is the most important event in the history of the world. Other events are marked by an-



## Op-Ed / CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

event in the history of the world. Other events are marked by annual observances, both civic and religious. Hence, once a year we celebrate Christmas, once a year we celebrate Fourth of July, our Independence Day. But Easter is different, we have a weekly observance, we celebrate the Lord's Resurrection each Sunday as a reminder that it is the most important event in our history and in our lives. If the whole Bible were lost but the Easter Gospel were saved, we would still have the Good News. We might ask ourselves how 12 uneducated fishermen did this. A tax collector and peasants from backwater villages in a conquered country, without smartphones, they established a religion that embrace billions of people, one third of the inhabitants of the world. The answer is the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. His Resurrection has changed everything. The Resurrection has divided history, not just our calendar into BC and AD.

On Easter, the Lord is inviting us to emerge from the tomb to walk in the light to know that the world can never be the same because he has conquered sin and death for all of us. In our own lives no matter how far we are from the Lord, Easter is an invitation, to draw near to gaze into the empty tomb, to put our fingers in the place of the nails, to renew our baptismal vows and know that we are part of Christ's family. Easter is an invitation to new life, to a new beginning, Easter means that life and love are forever, nothing else matters.

When the risen Lord meets anyone in the Gospels they are given a task, the task is to join the announcement, to be witnesses to the new life that is offered by Jesus Christ, even when persecuted the Church bears witness in its joy, overcoming fear in worship, in the midst of war, in famine, and during a pandemic. In Haiti, after the earthquake I was so moved by the faith of those thousands of Haitians living in refugee camps where for hours into the night the people could be heard singing God's praises and lifting their voice in prayer because in the face of death and destruction their faith in the risen Lord gave them hope and joy.

At Easter we celebrate that new life that Jesus gives us. We witness to it when we insist that money isn't our ruler, that self-promotion isn't our King, that pleasure isn't a fulfilling aim and that the ruthless individualism of our age can never bring happiness. The new life of Christ is broken into our world, it cannot be contained, nor restricted nor managed.

In Goethe's book Faust there is a dramatic scene where Faust is overcome with depression and sadness, he is contemplating suicide when suddenly he hears the Easter bells, the community of faith celebrating the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. The sound pulls him back from the edge and gives him hope. Today in Massachusetts all of the Christian churches are ringing their bells as a sign of the hope and joy that Easter brings us.

Today as we hear the Easter bells as a call to solidarity among all the members of our community so that in the face of the pandemic, we might respond to witness to the power of the Resurrection, the power of love that is stronger than death, and faith in a provident God who can always bring good out of evil.

To know the risen Lord, is to know his love, and his invitation to lead a better life, to treat each other with greater respect and concern. To know Jesus' Resurrection is to begin to understand that we too are going to live forever. In the light of the Resurrection, our lives must change. We must move beyond the materialism and individualism of our culture and embrace our mission to witness to the good news and make God's kingdom more visible by the way that we love, forgive, care for each other and serve one another especially those who are sick and suffering. The Resurrection assures us that there is life beyond the cross, there is meaning to suffering, that love is stronger than death. If Easter is about being surprised by Joy, it's also about sharing the good news and the joy that our Redeemer lives. Mary Magdalene ran to tell the people, let's stop dragging our feet, we must share the good news.

**Cardinal Seán Patrick O'Malley is the Archbishop of Boston.**

## Newhall congratulates fellow BSC alum Stevens on HOF honor

By Cary Shuman

Jeffrey Newhall knows the hard work, dedication, and commitment it takes to reach the top of the coaching profession.

Newhall led the St. Mary's High School girls basketball team to a state title in March, the program's third under his leadership as head coach.

So when Barbara Stevens, coach of the Bentley University women's basketball team, was elected to the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame earlier this month, Newhall immediately reached out to her to extend his congratulations on the esteemed recognition.

For Newhall and Stevens share a connection beyond winning championships and inspiring basketball players on and off the court.

Newhall (Class of 1997) and Stevens (Class of 1976) are proud alumni of Bridgewater State University. Newhall was a graduate assistant baseball coach at Bridgewater. Stevens played college basketball at BSU.

"Coach Stevens is at the top of her profession and those of us in New England are well aware of that," said Newhall. "Her election to the Hall of Fame validates that the universal basketball community sees that as well."

Some of Newhall's former St. Mary's stars, including Tori Fa-

ietta (Stonehill), Cassi Amenta (Merrimack), Ann Marie Idusuyi (Assumption), and Temi Falayi (Assumption), competed against Stevens-led Bentley teams in the Northeast-10 Conference.

Lynn resident Julie Halloran, a former Division 1 college basketball player at Northeastern University, has been a mentor to Newhall and gave him his start as an assistant coach when she was the head coach at Swampscott High School. Halloran also served as the head coach at Saugus High and an assistant at Harvard. One of Halloran's former players at Swampscott, Susan Bufalino, made the Bentley team as a walk-on and ended up working as an assistant coach there.

Like Stevens, Halloran was a pioneer in women's college basketball and inspired some of her former players, such as Swampscott High coach Katelyn Leonard, to give back to the game. Julie's husband, Paul Halloran, is a college basketball referee and assigns officials for high school games.

Said Julie Halloran, "Barbara Stevens represents everything that is good about basketball in general and especially women's basketball. She is obviously a great teacher of the game, but, more important, an outstanding role model for her players and everyone in the sport. It is so gratifying to see her get this recognition."

Stevens' induction is being heralded in Winthrop by two of its most successful athletes. Former Winthrop High School football coach Bob DeFelice is the director of athletics at Bentley University where the baseball field is named in his honor. DeFelice has been instrumental in the advancement of women's college sports and the building of new state-of-the-art athletic facilities on the Bentley campus. Former Winthrop High All-Scholastic Courtney Finn was an All-American player on Bentley's 2014 NCAA Division 2 national championship team that went 35-0.

Stevens, who has a career coaching record of 1,058-291, will be inducted in to the Hall of Fame Aug. 29 in Springfield. The 2020 Hall of Fame class also includes NBA legends Kobe Bryant, Kevin Garnett, and Tim Duncan, former NBA player and coach Rudy Tomjanovich, long-time NCAA men's coach Eddie Sutton, and Baylor women's basketball coach Kim Mulkey, "I am so honored, so humbled to be included in this

unbelievable class of inductees into the Hall of Fame," said Stevens. "This is something that is overwhelming. The incredible emotions that I felt after receiving the call from the Hall of Fame, I can't even put into words."

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the Coronavirus pandemic and the changes in the world that will impact the college. What's important is that we choose a leader who can be trusted, who listens, who can take feedback and apply it, act with integrity, and make strong and clear decisions when the situations warrant it. Our board believes Dr. Bryant is that leader," said Dr. J.D. LaRock,

## All Star/ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

softball, boys lacrosse and girls lacrosse. The soccer and football games are also played outdoors while the boys and girls basketball games are held indoors.

Halloran said if the Agganis Games are held, they would utilize the traditional Mon-

chair of the Board of Trustees.

"Words cannot do justice to the crucial role that Nate has played as chief of staff at SSU," said SSU President John Keenan. "He has provided leadership and counsel during some of our university's greatest challenges in recent years, all while being an ardent student advocate. I believe that NSCC and the entire

region can benefit tremendously from Nate applying his dedication and talent in this new way."

Over the course of the next year NSCC's Board of Trustees will conduct a full, national presidential search with an expected final decision to be made during the 2020-21 school year.

Halloran said the Agganis Foundation scholarship presentations will go on, regardless of whether the all-star games are played.

"The scholarship process is going forward," said Halloran.

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## Salem State offers residence halls and gymnasium space for community needs during the pandemic

As part of its commitment to serving the community, Salem State University has readied its residence halls and offered them for community needs related to the COVID-19 pandemic. These needs could include housing families; health care workers seeking to reduce the risk of spreading the virus to their families; and patients who are healthy enough for hospital discharge but wish to distance themselves from those in their household. In addition to residence halls, the university has also offered other facilities, including the O'Keefe Complex, for potential use.

In response to a request from the City of Salem, the university is housing families as of April 10; and it has finalized an agreement with Northeast Arc to house employees who work with vulnerable populations and wish to mitigate risk of spread to their families. The university

is in discussions with the Lynn Community Health Center and has reached out to North Shore Medical Center about potential current and future needs, and will evaluate requests from additional community partners as they come in.

"We have the space, and our doors are open," said President John Keenan. "We want to do our part to serve the community in any way that we can."

Salem State University has about 120 students who, due to varying circumstances, needed to remain on campus at this time. Preparation of the residence halls included consolidating SSU students to residential space on Central Campus to make other facilities, including the entire Bates Complex, available for community use.

In recent weeks, campus personnel facilitated move-outs and relocations while maintaining so-

cial distancing guidelines. They also coordinated with a moving company to pack and secure the belongings of students who preferred not to visit campus to retrieve their belongings as this time. As units were emptied and cleaned, the university connected with community partners about the space available.

"I want to thank those on our campus who have worked quickly and diligently to connect with our community and manage a number of moving pieces to get our space ready," said Keenan. "With the number of cases in the region expected to surge this month, we wanted to be ready to accommodate the multitude of needs that could arise."

In March, the university gathered personal protective equipment (PPE) from its academic, health services, and facilities departments for donation to first responders and nonprofits in

the region. This included nearly 34,000 gloves, over 1,100 gowns, 920 medical masks, 139 procedure masks with visors, 80 N95 face masks, 45 nasal cannula, 29 nasopharyngeal swab sets, and 300 shoe covers.

"I have been moved, but not surprised, by the way our campus has come together in true SSU Viking spirit to help one another and the surrounding community during these unprecedented times" said Keenan.

Those interested in utilizing the university's space should contact Senior Director of External Affairs Adria Duijvesteijn at [aduijvesteijn@salemstate.edu](mailto:aduijvesteijn@salemstate.edu).

Salem State University, established in 1854, is a comprehensive, public institution of higher learning located approximately 15 miles north of Boston, Massachusetts. One of the largest state universities in the Commonwealth, Salem State enrolls

more than 7,500 undergraduate and graduate students. It offers 32 undergraduate programs and graduate programs that offer degrees in 24 fields. The university also has a continuing education division that offers both credit and non-credit programs. Known for the academic strength of its faculty, Salem State was named a Top Producer of U.S. Fulbright Scholars in 2011 and for the 2016-2017 academic year. The university is designated a Top College and University by Military Advanced Education and a Best for Vets College by Military Times. Salem State proudly participates in the National Study of Learning, Voting, and Engagement and has shown a student voting rate well above the national average, earning the university a gold seal from the ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge.

## Store/ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

forward with its state application for a cannabis retail license at its 829 Boston Street location.

Massachusetts Green Retail president and CEO Jordan Avery thanked the City of Lynn and his many local supporters for their advocacy while the suit was pending.

"I am extremely happy and relieved to put this behind me and to start moving forward with my application. I'm grateful for the Lynn city officials and the many friends and supporters who stuck by me during this stressful time," Avery said.

He called the judge's ruling "a big step in the right direction" for the business. "Our application process and everything involved in obtaining our occupancy permit will not be halted due to the case being dismissed."

Avery said the business will be a state-of-the-art recreational marijuana store and it will be called Mass Green Retail. It will occupy one part of the building while the other part will have a Bianchi's Pizza restaurant.

"We (Mass Green Retail and Bianchi's) will have two different addresses and two different main doors," said Avery.

The son of legendary Lynn Tech basketball coach Marvin Avery, Jordan said he was particularly grateful for the "outstanding" legal work by Attorney Sam Vitali of Lynn.

"Mr. Vitali has stuck by my side the whole, entire time," said



Jordan Avery (right), president and CEO of Massachusetts Green Retail, with his attorney, Sam Vitali of Lynn.

Avery. "He's a big role model to me. Being only 26 years old and going through this process, I've learned a lot. It was very stressful. Mr. Vitali is a gentleman and a great guy. I had a great legal team. I thank the City of Lynn Law Department as well."

He also credited Attorney David Summers of Boston for his efforts in the appeal process.

"I'm just beyond excited and ready to begin my quest at en-

trepreneurship by providing lab-tested product to the city of Lynn, the place where I was born and raised, grew up, and went to school," said Avery, a 2013 Lynn Tech graduate.

(A press release provided by Jim Borghesani was used in the compilation of this story. The Journal interviewed Jordan Avery for additional quotes. Mr. Avery also provided the photos)

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counts and processing loans. We have a long rich history of surviving many significant world events starting with the Civil War, WWI, the Great depression and WWII. We will emerge as a stronger bank and continue being a provider of banking needs of Boston citizens."

According to Gavegnano EBSB's responsive steps have included:

- Preventive programs in place to reduce the likelihood that our operations would be significantly affected by the COVID-19, including:

- Educating employees
- Monitoring of potential outbreaks
- Communicating and coordinating with critical service providers and suppliers
- Providing appropriate hygiene training and tools to employees

- The bank will continue to monitor our employee population and take appropriate action to reduce exposure to other colleagues and customers if an employee is exhibiting flu like symptoms. As always, the bank has instructed all colleagues exhibiting any signs of illness to stay home.

- Have asked cleaning companies to be even more vigilant in disinfecting frequently touched areas. In addition, the bank has made hand sanitizer available for use at all locations.

- The bank has implemented internal "social distancing" techniques to minimize the typical face-to-face contact by utilizing teleconference calls, video conferencing, and flexible workspaces. In addition, the bank asks all of its customers to help maintain a handshake-free zone at all EBSB locations.

### SEND US YOUR NEWS

The Lynn Journal encourages residents to submit engagement, wedding and birth announcements, news releases, business and education briefs, sports stories and photos for publication. Items should be forwarded to our offices at 385 Broadway, Revere, MA 02151. Items can also be faxed to 781-485-1403. We also encourage readers to e-mail news releases and photos to [Cary@lynn-journal.com](mailto:Cary@lynn-journal.com)



# Town of Nahant shares COVID-19 relief information for local businesses, unemployment and guidance

Town Administrator Tony Barletta would like to share the following federal and state information with local businesses and workers regarding small business and unemployment resources that are available during the ongoing COVID-19 crisis.

## Federal Resources

On Friday, March 27, President Donald Trump signed the CARES Act, which contains \$376 billion in relief for American workers and small businesses, into law. The act also provides benefits for several other groups, including hospitals and public health agencies, state and local governments and education agencies.

One major aspect for small businesses is that the bill provides relief by creating a \$350 billion loan program, the Paycheck Protection Program, to prevent layoffs and business closures while employees remain at home. The relief applies to companies with 500 employees or fewer, as well as to most 501(c)(3) and 501(c)(19) non-profits.

The program would provide eight weeks of cash-flow assistance through federally guaranteed loans to small employers who maintain their payroll during the emergency. If the employer maintains payroll, the portion of the loans used to cover payroll costs, interest on mortgage obligations, rent and utilities would be forgiven.

Residents may also be eligible to receive Economic Impact Payment (also referred to as stimulus payments) from the Internal Revenue Service as a result of the CARES Act. These payments, which will be delivered either through direct deposit or a mailed check, are based off of an individual's 2018 or 2019 tax filings and can be up to \$1,200 for individual filers and \$2,400 for married couples who filed jointly. Families may also receive an additional \$500 for each child who is 17 years old or younger. More information about these payments can be found here.

The Small Business Debt Relief Program will also provide immediate relief to small businesses. Through the Small Business Administration, non-disaster SBA loans, in particular 7(a), 504 and microloans, will be provided. The SBA will cover all loan payments on these SBA loans, including principal, interest and fees, for a period of six months.

This relief will also be available to new borrowers who take out loans within six months of March

27.

Economic Injury Disaster Loans and Emergency Economic Injury Grants will provide an emergency advance of up to \$10,000 to small businesses and private non-profits harmed by COVID-19 within days of applying for an SBA Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL). To access the advance, employers must first apply for an EIDL and then request the advance.

The advance does not need to be repaid under any circumstance, and may be used to keep employees on payroll, to pay for sick leave, meet increased production costs due to supply chain disruptions, or pay business obligations, including debts, rent and mortgage payments.

Additional information regarding federal coronavirus relief options can be found on the federal Small Business Administration website.

## State Resources

Massachusetts Small Business Tax Relief

The Baker-Polito Administration recently announced small business tax relief measures for local businesses which have been impacted by the ongoing COVID-19 outbreak. The measures include postponing the collection of regular sales tax, meals tax and room occupancy taxes due in March, April and May to be due instead on June 20.

Businesses that paid less than \$150,000 in regular sales plus meals taxes, or in room occupancy taxes in the year ending Feb. 29, 2020 will be eligible for relief for the respective taxes.

Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development (EOLWD)

EOLWD offers resources for businesses regarding employee benefits. These resources include:

- Updated information regarding unemployment resources, found here.
- The WorkShare program can help employers avoid layoffs during a downturn.
- The Rapid Response program works closely with companies to avoid layoffs and keep a skilled workforce engaged in the existing economy or industry.

The EOLWD will continue to post guidance as it becomes available.

Department of Unemployment Assistance (DUA)

DUA hosts daily Town Hall Meetings to guide attendees through the process of achieving a successful unemployment claim

and answers any questions attendees may have. Town Halls are offered over the phone and online. To learn more or to register to attend, click here.

DUA is also working to implement three new public benefit programs following guidance regarding the CARES Act that will expand unemployment eligibility, temporarily increase weekly benefits for all claimants and allow additional categories of workers to claim unemployment benefits.

- The Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC) program provides an additional \$600 per week to individuals collecting regular Unemployment Compensation (UC), Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC), Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA), Extended Benefits (EB), Trade Readjustment Act (TRA) or Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DA). The \$600 will be added to all eligible weeks of benefits retroactive to March 29, 2020 and continuing until July 31, 2020.

- The Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) program will provide up to 39 weeks of unemployment benefits to individuals who are not working as a result of COVID-19, as well as to other workers who do not qualify for regular Unemployment Compensation. PUA benefits will be disbursed through a new system, which is expected to begin accepting claims at the end of April. Eligible claimants will be retroactively compensated.

- The Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC) program provides up to 13 weeks of unemployment benefits to individuals who have exhausted previous unemployment benefits. DUA is awaiting additional federal guidance on how to implement and administer this program and the extended weeks of PEUC benefits are not yet available.

Learn more about each of the programs here.

Workers can learn more about unemployment benefits during COVID-19 on DUA's website. DUA will continue to post guidance as it becomes available.

COVID-19 PPE Procurement and Donation Program

Businesses can also participate in the Commonwealth's PPE Procurement and Donation Program. Individuals and companies can donate or sell personal protective equipment (PPE), via the online portal. Information for requesting PPE is available here.

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Graham (Facebook)

## Special for the week of the 15th-19th of April

Pulled Pork Sandwich in a barbecue sauce with cheddar, onions and pickles on Texas toast with side and a drink \$ 9.95

This April, Christopher's Cafe invites people facing financial hardship, food insecurity or the loss of employment to come in for a free meal to go. Stop by and let us know you're responding to the meal invitation. (No questions asked)

We look forward to serving you. Please pass the word and post to social media.





# Navigators sign Yankees draftee Espelin, Gigliotti

A pair of Massachusetts natives and former prep teammates will be reunited with the Futures Collegiate Baseball League's North Shore Navigators this summer.

The newest members of North Shore's pitching staff are Dayton's Nate Espelin and Northeastern's Jake Gigliotti. President and General Manager Derek January made Tuesday's announcement, welcoming the two freshmen who helped The Winchendon School to the New England Small School Tournament title as postgraduate students last spring.

A 35th-round draft pick of the New York Yankees last June,

Espelin appeared in three games for Dayton this season after posting seven wins, a 1.53 ERA and 67 strikeouts over 50.1 innings at Winchendon. The 6-foot, 190-pound left-hander earned Second Team All-New England Prep honors from New England Baseball Journal last season. Before departing for his prep year, Espelin was a three-time Middlesex League All-Star as both a pitcher and soccer goalkeeper for Belmont High. His Belmont Marauder baseball resume also includes a Middlesex League Player of the Year award in 2018 and two All-Scholastic nods from both the Boston Globe and Boston Herald.

Scouting Report: Throws any pitch in any count ... sits 88-90mph with above-average curveball and changeup ... good athlete ... MLB comp: Dallas Braden.

Gigliotti made two appearances during his debut spring at Northeastern, tallying three strikeouts in four frames. The Auburn native is a familiar face to the Fraser Field fans as he pitched in 13 games for the Navs last summer, holding FCBL opponents to a .206 average and fanning 30 over 26.2 regular-season innings. At Winchendon, the 6-foot-1, 185-pound righty posted a 1.58 ERA and 15.4 strikeouts per nine innings. He was also a

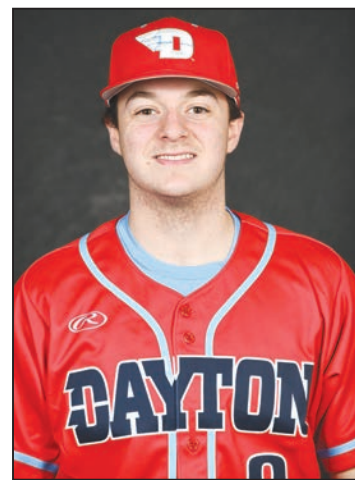
Telegram & Gazette and Mid-Wach League All-Star during his two years at Wachusett Regional High School in Holden.

Scouting Report: Throws three pitches for strikes ... sits 86-90mph with above-average slider ... very good competitor ... great mound composer ... MLB comp: Merrill Kelly.

The Navs are now preparing for the 13th season of collegiate ball at Fraser Field and their ninth in the Futures League. The 2020 opener is scheduled for Wednesday, May 27. Until then, stay up to date on the latest Navs news by visiting [nnavs.com](http://nnavs.com) and following us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.



Jake Gigliotti.



Nate Espelin.

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# THE FAST LANE

## Mallios rising through the officiating ranks

By Cary Shuman

By only his fourth season in high school basketball officiating, Vasili Mallios had earned a coveted assignment: a spot as a referee for a state semifinal game at the TD Garden.

When you consider the path for most referees is a few seasons in freshman and JV basketball, and then just maybe a promotion to varsity – it’s a testament to Mallios’ work as an official that that he was at the Garden so relatively early in his career.

A former Winthrop High backcourtman whose hopes for a state title were sidetracked in a sold-out, sea-of-Orange Ipswich High gym, Mallios was a 20-year-old student at Suffolk University when he decided he wanted to be a basketball referee.

“I reached out to Paul Halloran whom I had known through officiating my high school games in Winthrop,” said the now 31-year-old Mallios. “He put me in the direction of how to pursue it and I started attending the IAABO Board 130 classes at North Andover High School with rules interpreter Billy Boutilier.”

Mallios took the certified officials’ test, aced it, and then began refereeing middle school, freshman, and JV basketball for his first two years. NEC and Cape Ann League Assigner Larry McIntire then gave Mallios the opportunity to start officiating varsity boys basketball.

One year later in 2014, Mallios was front and center in front of thousands of fans at the Garden. “Paul Halloran and Bob Mullins had recommended me to Larry

McIntire who helped me get to the next level. I’m really grateful to those guys for given me a shot, especially as a young official. They entrusted in me that I could handle coaches, handle players and make sure the game is called the way it is supposed to be called.”

In his fifth season as an official, Mallios attended Larry Last’s college officials’ camp. He spent one more season in the high school officiating ranks and was selected to referee a sectional final at the Tsongas Center in Lowell.

### On to college Officiating and New England Division 1

After leaving the business world to become a teacher at the Marshall Middle School, Mallios tried out as a college basketball referee and was selected by Mike Stephens and Larry Last for a position in the Division 3 college ranks.

Mallios began working Division 2 games in the NE-10 last year. This past season (2019-2020), Mallios reached the top tier of officiating in New England, taking on assignments in three Division 1 conferences: the Ivy League, Patriot League, and Northeast Conference.

“I’ve had the opportunity to work with some of the top Division 1 officials,” said Mallios.

During the day, Mallios is an eighth-grade math teacher at the Winthrop Middle School. He then hits the road for college basketball officiating assignments throughout the region, including games at Brown, Boston University, Bryant, and Merrimack.

“I come home, prep for the next day of school, and then start teaching in the morning,” he said.

Mallios has received “excellent” evaluations, thus drawing prestigious assignments such as Commonwealth Coast Conference Tournament championship games. He refereed the MASS-CAC and GNAC finals this year.

Halloran said Mallios is considered one of the best and brightest prospects in the college ranks. He remembers Vasili’s days as a Winthrop Viking basketball player.

“He was one of those players who as an official, if you had a problem with another player on the team, you could always go to Vasili and he would take care of it right away,” said Halloran.

Halloran has followed Mallios’ career from the start. “He showed a lot of promise right from the beginning. We pushed hard for Larry (McIntire) to move him up and Larry was a big fan as well. The results have been unbelievable. He’s part of a really good group of officials in the Boston area and he’s not only in that group, he’s surpassed them.”

Mallios is on the radar for college basketball’s most renowned Division 1 conferences.

“I’ve talked to people who have observed Vasili refereeing Division 1 basketball and they say he’s handled his assignments well beyond his years,” said Halloran, who is also a college refer-



College basketball referee Vasili Mallios prepares for the opening tapoff.

ee. “I’m really happy for him – he’s a great kid for a great family and he’s worked hard at it.”

### Holding court at home

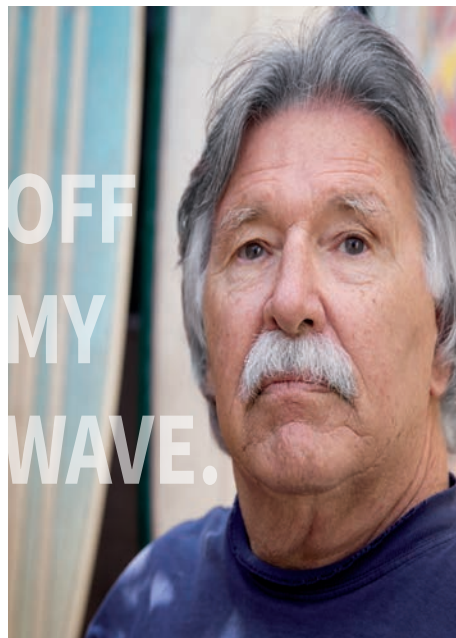
Vasili Mallios is the son of Steve and Elaine Mallios. His father was a basketball star at Bishop Fenwick High School. His sister, Katerina Mallios, played on some of Winthrop’s greatest teams and continued her career at Babson College. His brother, Dino, was a superb guard at Winthrop and went on to lead the nation in assists while playing at St. Anselm College.

His uncles, Chris, Nick, and Max, all excelled at the game. The basketball court at Winthrop High is the Chris Tsiotos Court, a fitting tribute to the 6-5 star averaged 28 points a game before taking his talents to Suffolk.

Vasili said he remains committed to college basketball officiating and will be returning next season.

“I love it – it is a hobby. I have the best seat in the house,” said Mallios. “You’re always thinking on the court. You have to make a decision in a split of a second. When I stopped playing basketball, I said I had to be a part of it, somehow. It was either coaching or refereeing and I chose a path that not lot of people normally take. Since the first game as a referee, it’s been a great experience.”

“I have long-term and short-term goals,” said Mallios. “I’d love to be a part of the Big East, ACC, A-10, but my short-term goals are to making it to the NCAA Division 2 and 3 Tournaments, one step at a time, one game at a time.”



OFF MY WAVE.



Ocean Beach native and local surf legend Steve Bettis was diagnosed with MS in 2006. Although surfing is still central to his life, he hasn’t been able to get out on the water in 10 years. For a man whose daily routine always included a few waves, more than a decade out of the surf is just too long. This is why the National MS Society teamed up with his buddy Robert “Wingnut” Weaver and used virtual reality to get Steve back on his wave. See their experience and find out how you can share yours at [WeAreStrongerThanMS.org](http://WeAreStrongerThanMS.org).

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# Baker keeps residents informed as state prepares for surge

By Lauren Bennett

As Massachusetts begins to enter a surge in coronavirus cases, Governor Charlie Baker continues to provide updates and make new announcements to keep the people of the Commonwealth safe and informed.

As of April 13, Massachusetts had 26,867 confirmed cases of COVID-19, and 844 people have died statewide.

“We think testing is a big part of dealing with people who have COVID-19,” Baker said on April 14. “Testing and tracing are a big part of how we actually push back over time.” He said that Massachusetts is “either the third or fourth largest tester in the country,” and is now conducting testing at 28 sites statewide. The state also offers testing through mobile units at places like nursing homes.

Governor Baker on April 9 spoke about executive orders that would make it easier for foreign educated doctors to become licensed in Massachusetts, as well as expedited licensure of nursing students and graduates.

Lt. Governor Karyn Polito also discussed resources available for survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault, including the expansion of the state’s 24/7 toll-

free confidential domestic violence hotline, SafeLink, which is now available through 211. The SafeLink number is (877) 785-2020, and the TTY number is (877) 421-2601.

Baker also talked about the first implementation of federal unemployment benefits as part of the CARES Act. Last week, Baker said that nearly 140,000 new individuals filed for unemployment in the state, and nearly 470,000 have filed over the past three weeks.

“These numbers are obviously staggering,” Baker said. “We know several people have had trouble getting through the website. The administration is working hard on this one.” He said the online system that the state utilizes “has been able to withstand the volume without crashing,” which he said has not been the case for many states.

“The Department of Unemployment Assistance (DUA) has been working nonstop,” he said. More than 600 people are working remotely at the unemployment call center making over 6000 calls per day, “and that number will continue to trend up as we go forward,” he said.

New federal unemployment benefits include an additional \$600 a week for regular unemployment compensation, which

is happening now. This applies to “all eligible claimants,” both those who currently receive unemployment and those who are applying now. It is retroactive to March 29 and will run until the end of July, the governor said.

Additionally, the DUA is currently working on a way to implement expanded support for people who are not typically eligible for unemployment benefits, such as gig workers or those who are self-employed. The governor said that those interested in applying for this program should check the DUA website.

The third program includes a “13 week extension of benefits for people who have exhausted their previous unemployment benefits,” Baker said. “We are still waiting on guidance from the federal government for how to do this.”

A Spanish-language unemployment application is also now available online. “The Department of Unemployment Assistance (DUA) will make language applications available in Portuguese, Haitian Creole, Chinese, Vietnamese and additional languages in the coming days,” according to a release from the state. “The new Spanish language UI form is the latest effort from the Commonwealth to deliver crucial COVID-19 information

to non-English speakers...” Additionally, the COVID-19 text message system is also now available in Spanish, all of mass.gov is available in 13 different languages, 211 is available in over 150 languages, and several agencies have fact sheets in multiple languages to help keep the Commonwealth informed.

On April 10, the Baker-Polito Administration announced that the Department of Public Health will issue a Public Health Advisory that recommends people wear a face covering in public “when they cannot safely socially distance” in order to protect themselves and others from the virus.

He also announced that the state has around 15,900 usable beds available as it heads towards the surge. “Projections have indicated that we need more beds and more staff to beds,” he said last week. He said that right now, half of the state’s beds are available for “varying levels of care.”

The field hospital at the Boston Convention and Exhibition Center opened on April 10 with a total of 1000 beds, 500 for hospital capacity and 500 for homeless COVID-19 patients. Field hospitals are also open at the DCU Center in Worcester and the Newton Pavilion. Other locations to come include Cape Cod,

Springfield, and Lowell to provide beds for patients who do not need care at the ICU level.

On April 13, Baker also announced that mobile testing has been expanded, and in places like Chelsea where the per capita cases are extremely high, there are “several state agencies ready to provide resources,” including increasing testing capacity fourfold in the Chelsea area. Additionally, the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) is implementing a food plan to increase production of meal kits. He said by the end of this week, there will be 750 kits produced with about 35 meals in each kit, totaling 26,000 meals.

Baker also announced that he was funding a program for local businesses to make personal protection equipment (PPE) even if it isn’t what they normally manufacture. Called the Manufacturing Emergency Response Team (MERT), the program launched on April 2 and will pivot operations of some businesses to PPE like gowns, face shields, swabs, and hand sanitizers.

The governor emphasized that the next few weeks will be difficult, but “we continue to make progress” in testing capacity and availability of beds.

## State offers first guidance on new unemployment claim process under CARES Act

The state government announced details for the initial implementation of federal unemployment benefits in the CARES Act, the federal based COVID-19 relief package.

This federal program, enacted on March 27, 2020, will be administered by states. The announcement reflects the first set of partial guidance that Massachusetts will immediately implement to support unemployed workers. The Department of Unemployment Assistance (DUA) is moving swiftly to implement the new benefit programs and awaits additional guidance from the federal government for the remainder of benefits authorized by the CARES Act – including building a completely new platform for self-employed and gig workers that they hope to have ready by April 30.

Understanding the great urgency of Commonwealth residents to access these benefits, DUA issued new guidance to instruct all residents of what actions they can take now.

•Federal Pandemic Un-

employment Compensation (FPUC): For Individuals Currently Collecting Benefits From Regular Unemployment Compensation:

Overview: An additional \$600 per week for individuals collecting benefits from regular unemployment compensation is being implemented by DUA. The additional \$600 will be added to unemployment benefits retroactive to March 29, 2020 and will begin being disbursed to claimants this week.

The FPUC program will provide an additional \$600 per week to individuals who are collecting regular Unemployment Compensation (UC), Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC), Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA), Extended Benefits (EB), Trade Readjustment Act (TRA), and Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DA). The Department has already begun implementing the FPUC program for regular UC claimants. The \$600 will be added to all eligible weeks of benefits retroactive to March 29, 2020 and continuing

until July 31, 2020. FPUC monetary disbursements will begin immediately in Massachusetts for those who are currently collecting benefits on regular UC claims. Those receiving PEUC, PUA, and EB will receive the additional \$600 payments retroactive to March 29, 2020 as soon as their claims are processed and determined eligible.

Next Steps For Claimants: Eligible claimants who are already receiving UI do not need to do anything for the additional \$600 to be added to their weekly benefit amount. This benefit will be available for all new claimants filing for regular Unemployment Compensation as well, which can be done at [www.mass.gov/unemployment/covid-19](http://www.mass.gov/unemployment/covid-19)

•Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA): For Individuals Not Covered Under Traditional Unemployment Insurance (Self-Employed, Gig Economy Workers, Others):

Overview: A benefit will be available for individuals not covered under traditional unemployment insurance like the self-em-

ployed or gig workers or those who do not qualify for lack of wages. DUA is now working with a vendor to build a new platform to disburse those benefits. This platform is expected to begin processing claims on or about April 30, 2020.

PUA will provide up to 39 weeks of unemployment benefits to individuals who are not working as a result of COVID-19 and are self-employed, independent contractors, gig economy workers, and others who otherwise would not qualify for regular UC or EB under state or federal law or PEUC. These individuals will not be able to claim benefits directly through the UI Online System in Massachusetts, as of this time. The Department of Unemployment Assistance has engaged a vendor to build a new platform to disburse PUA benefits. The platform is expected to begin accepting PUA claims by April 30, 2020. Eligible claimants under PUA will be retroactively compensated with this benefit beginning February 2, 2020, or the first week a claimant was unable

to work as a result of COVID-19, whichever date is later. The last week this benefit is payable is the week ending December 26, 2020.

Next Steps For Claimants: Eligible claimants should continue to check for updates at [www.mass.gov/unemployment/covid-19](http://www.mass.gov/unemployment/covid-19) on the new platform, which will be ready this month. Once the system is up and running, eligible claimants will receive this benefit backdated to February 2, 2020, or the first week a claimant was unable to work as a result of COVID-19.

•Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC): For Individuals Who Exhausted Previous UI Benefits:

Overview: A 13-week extension of benefits for individuals who exhausted their previous benefits – is not yet available as DUA continues to await federal implementation guidance.

The PEUC program provides up to 13 weeks of unemployment insurance benefits to individuals who have exhausted their previous unemployment benefits.



# Baker provides update on hospital surge capacity

On April 9, the state provided an update on the Commonwealth's hospital capacity and efforts to add more beds to the system to meet the expected surge in COVID-19 cases, identifying the need for 14,500 treatment beds and expanding to that number through the use of field hospitals.

**Hospital Surge Capacity:** The Administration's COVID-19 Response Command Center released its initial projections on the surge two weeks ago. Since then, the Command Center has remained in regular contact with the Commonwealth's hospitals on a daily basis as they work to increase acute and ICU bed capacity. As of today, the Commonwealth has worked to make a total of approximately 14,500 treatment beds available ahead of the surge:

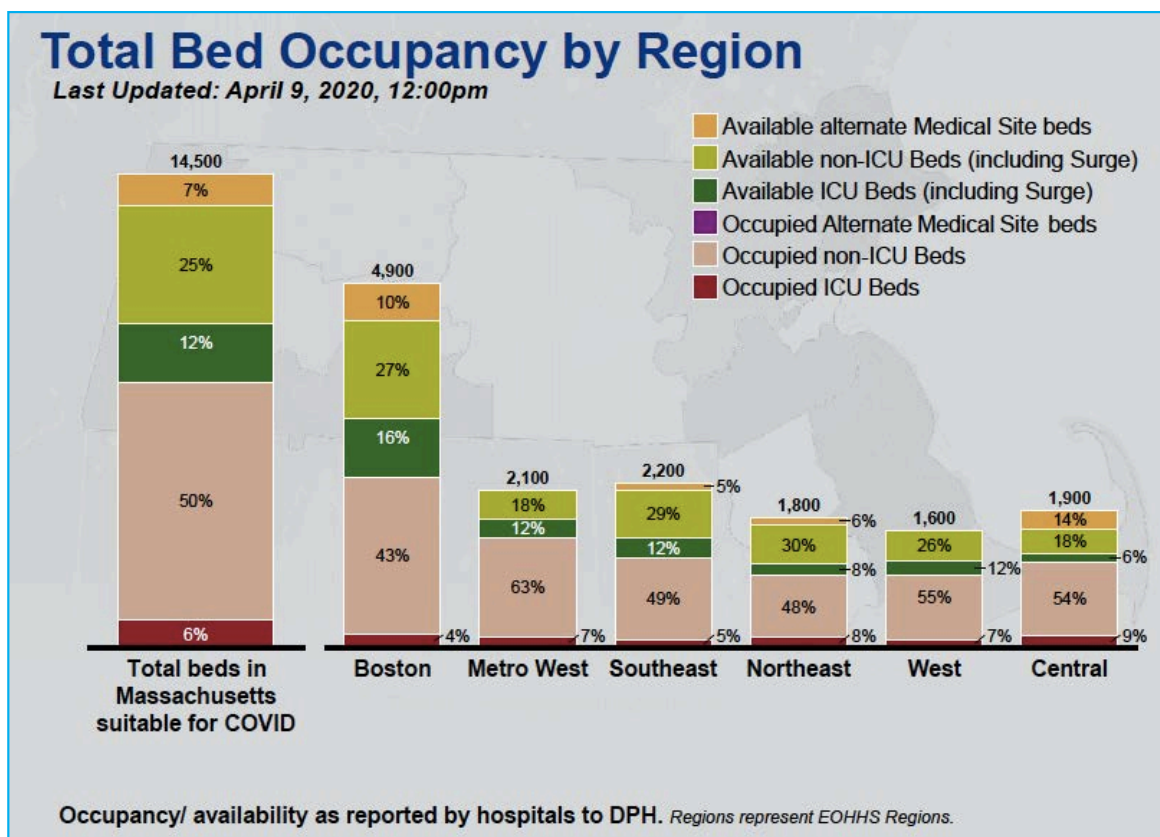
•11,000 beds could be available for ICU and acute care in the existing hospital system. This represents a breakdown of roughly 9,400 acute care beds

and 1,500 ICU beds.

•Through hospital surge planning and field hospitals, the Commonwealth is bringing approximately 3,500 new beds online for ICU and acute care. This breaks down to approximately 2,500 new hospital beds coming online from hospital surge planning, and 1,000 beds coming online through field hospitals.

The Command Center continues to monitor the impact of COVID-19 on different regions and tracking how many hospital beds are available across the Commonwealth. As of April 9, hospitals had reported that 8,100 beds are occupied statewide, or approximately 55 percent (this figure includes hospitalizations for non COVID-19 patients). This meant that 6,400 beds were currently available for both ICU and acute care, or roughly 45%.

**Field Hospitals:** In the coming days, hundreds of new beds will come online that will help the Commonwealth significantly ramp up care capacity ahead



of the surge to support existing hospitals. The Command Center is targeting five alternate care sites. These field hospitals will serve as an alternative site for hospitals to treat patients, particularly individuals who need acute care. They are being built

all around the state to ensure all residents have access to this emergency care. The field hospital at the Boston Convention and Exhibition Center opened late last week. Field hospitals at the DCU Center in Worcester and Newton Pavilion in Boston

started accepting patients April 8. Over the coming week, additional facilities will open up in Cape Cod, Springfield, and Lowell. All in all, these facilities will provide approximately 1,000 additional beds for patients who do not require ICU-level care.

## State to now provide COVID-19 text alerts in spanish

The state announced on Friday, April 10, that its COVID-19 text message alert system "AlertsMA" is now available in Spanish. This expansion of the text-alert system means that the same text alerts that are distributed via the English-language system will now be available to Spanish-language users.

Users can subscribe to the Spanish-language service by texting "COVIDMAESP" to 888-777.

"Throughout the COVID-19 outbreak, we have consistently reminded residents to get their information from trusted sources, and with the expansion of the AlertsMA text alert system, we are making it easier for Spanish-speaking residents to access important updates from the Commonwealth," said Governor

Charlie Baker. "This new service builds on our efforts to keep people in all communities across the Commonwealth informed as we confront COVID-19 together."

Since its launch on March 24, more than 215,000 individuals have signed up to receive text-message updates from AlertsMA.

The Spanish-language text alerts are the latest effort from the Commonwealth to deliver crucial COVID-19 information to non-English speakers. All of Mass.Gov (including formation) at "blank" Mass.Gov/COVID19) is available in 13 different languages, and the Commonwealth's non-emergency help line, 2-1-1 is available in over 150 languages. Several agencies, including the Department of Public Health and

the Department of Unemployment Assistance, offer additional fact sheets available in multiple languages.

The Commonwealth's Executive Office of Technology Services and Security partnered with Everbridge, a Massachusetts-based company whose platform powers AlertsMA, to initially bring the notification service online. The Commonwealth and Everbridge partnered with UMass Medical School and the Center for Health Impact for Spanish-language translation services.

The Commonwealth will continue to promote the service on Mass.gov, through digital displays and billboards at the MBTA, via MassDOT, and through social media.

## A SHORT STORY ABOUT A MOTORCYCLE. AND A SUDDEN TURN.

When she was a young college student, Elisabeth Marra had a serious motorcycle accident that ultimately changed her life. Two years after the crash, her painful open fractures had failed to heal. Then she heard about a new and complex surgery pioneered by a surgeon who used a patient's own stem cells to concentrate the healing process. This time, her surgery and subsequent therapy were successful.

Elisabeth's experience caused her to re-direct her own career aspirations. Inspired by the medical professionals who helped her reclaim her active lifestyle, she changed her major to study physical therapy—a profession where her own experience could help other patients prevail through difficult recoveries.

We tell Elisabeth Marra's story here to illustrate two of the most profound messages we know. Don't give up, and remember to give back. If reading it inspires just one more person to achieve something special, then its telling here has been well worth while.



## CARES // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

The first week a claimant can be compensated on this benefit is the week beginning March 29, 2020, and the last payable week is the week ending December 26, 2020. The Department of Unemployment Assistance is awaiting ad-

ditional federal guidance on how to implement and administer this program and the extended weeks of PEUC benefits are not yet available.

**Next Steps For Claimants:** No action at this time. Eligible claim-

ants should continue to check for updates, which will be made available as soon as the state receives information from the federal government.



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## MIAA plans for shortened season

The Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association (MIAA) last week announced plans for a shortened spring athletic season in the event that Gov. Charlie Baker allows schools to go back into session on May 4.

The MIAA's plans compress the 2020 spring season into a regular season of 8-12 games and then an abbreviated post-season that would feature only sectional playoff tournaments. There would be no state tournaments.

School presumably would play only other schools within their own conferences, a move that would necessitate a reconfiguration of the existing schedules for every school.

If schools do in fact re-open on May 4, the MIAA also established guidelines for the pre-season for each sport. The pre-season, including tryouts,

would be shortened to a week for most sports. Rugby programs would be required to have a nine-day pre-season, though spring golf programs would be required to have only a three-day pre-season.

Of course, the MIAA's plans are predicated on a big "if," that being whether schools are allowed to reopen on May 4, which is an increasingly-unlikely scenario.

With the COVID-19 pandemic still rampaging through the state, the chances of schools being reopened -- which would expose students, teachers, coaches, and all of their families to infection -- appears to be remote.

The MIAA Board of Directors met Monday to discuss further plans and options, but no announcements have been forthcoming as of press time.

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# Baker expands priority COVID-19 to grocery store workers in state

On Friday, April 10, Gov. Charlie Baker issued further public health guidance, expanded resources for critical workers and increased Massachusetts National Guard activation to support its ongoing response to mitigate the spread of COVID-19.

A new Department of Public Health advisory, consistent with CDC guidance, recommends that all residents wear a mask or face covering in public when social distancing is not possible. In addition, the Executive Branch issued similar guidance to state employees recommending when masks or face coverings should be utilized while working.

The administration has also

expanded access to the free priority COVID-19 testing sites for first responders located at Gillette Stadium to include grocery store workers.

Additionally, Governor Charlie Baker authorized the activation of an additional 3,000 more military personnel of the Massachusetts National Guard.

•Face Coverings and Cloth Masks Advisory: The Administration today issued guidance to residents and Executive Branch employees recommending the use of a face covering or cloth mask when in situations where maintaining proper social distancing measures are not possible to prevent the spread of COVID-19,

such as in a grocery store.

A face covering may include anything that covers your nose and mouth, including a mask, scarf or bandana. Health care masks, such as N95 masks, should not be used and should be preserved for health care workers and first responders. Cloth masks should not be worn by young children under the age of two, persons with difficulty breathing, or those who are unconscious, incapacitated or otherwise unable to remove the mask without assistance.

•Grocery Store Worker Priority Testing: The Administration and the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security expanded access to the free, priority COVID-19

testing sites for first responders to now include grocery store and supermarket workers. Beginning Saturday, April 11, the men and women who provide critical access to food and other necessities could schedule an appointment to receive COVID-19 testing at the sites located at Gillette Stadium in Foxboro. All appointments must be made in advance by the worker's supervisor or manager, and personnel do not need to be symptomatic to be eligible.

•Massachusetts National Guard Activation: Gov. Baker authorized the activation of an additional 3,000 military personnel of the Massachusetts National Guard to support the Commonwealth's

COVID-19 response. This order raises the total authorization to up to 5,000 members statewide, who may be tasked with supporting requests from state agencies for equipment, logistics, warehousing and related duties. Localities, towns and state agencies should submit requests for support through the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency.

The activation reflects Governor Baker's statutory authority to activate the Massachusetts National Guard under state active duty to provide necessary assistance to state and municipal civilian authorities.

## State administration launches Spanish language unemployment application

On Friday, April 10, the state launched a Spanish language online, mobile-friendly, unemployment benefits application for those who need to apply.

The new, secure application for Spanish speakers is available through [mass.gov/desempleo](http://mass.gov/desempleo), the Spanish language website for unemployment in Massachusetts.

The Department of Unemployment Assistance (DUA) will make language applications available in Portuguese, Haitian Creole, Chinese, Vietnamese and additional languages in the coming days.

The Department of Unemployment Assistance is focused on supporting workers impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and continues to process claims as quickly as possible. The new Spanish mobile-friendly application is among several efforts to reach and assist all individuals who are eligible for unemployment benefits and provide the financial assistance they need. Other efforts include:

•Rapidly updating the DUA

website with the latest information that claimants and employers need to know, what the latest federal legislation means for them, and a step-by-step guide to filing a claim available in multiple languages.

•The unemployment contact form to reach a DUA agent is also available in multiple languages.

•Hosting daily town halls in both English and Spanish, which have been attended by over 100,000 constituents. Individuals can sign up to attend a virtual town hall at [mass.gov/unemployment/townhall](http://mass.gov/unemployment/townhall) or at [mass.gov/desempleo](http://mass.gov/desempleo).

•Deploying over 600 new remote employees to keep pace with the increased volume of unemployment insurance claims, and adding language capacities in the call center to better serve residents across the state.

•Legislation proposed and signed by Governor Baker waiving the one-week waiting period to collect an unemployment claim payment.

## Progressive Massachusetts members endorses Ed Markey for U.S. Senate

Progressive Massachusetts (Progressive Mass) has announced its endorsement of Ed Markey for re-election to the United States Senate.

Senator Markey received the support of 96 percent of Progressive Mass members.

"Progressive Mass is an incredible group of grassroots organizers who understand that the 2020 election is among the most important elections of our lifetime," said Senator Markey. "Access to affordable health care, clean energy, public health, and social and economic justice are all on the ballot this fall and we must act together to make real, structural change. Their progressive values are my values, and I am proud to have earned their endorsement in this race."

"Both candidates in the United States Senate race participated in the Progressive Mass

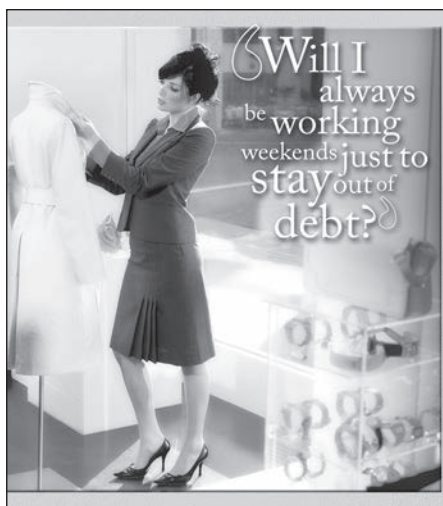
endorsement process. Member after member cited the powerful combination of both the vision and experience of Senator Markey. As the lead sponsor of policies like the Green New Deal, Ed Markey has articulated a bold and clear vision to address one of the most existential crises we face in a way that leaves no one behind. He has a track record of fighting for progressive causes, as well as years of experience in translating his vision into results," said Progressive Mass Chair of Election Committees Jon Cohn.

The organization's endorsement follows the recent announcements of support from several major groups, including UNITE Here Local 26 labor union workers, the Planned Parenthood Action Fund, NARAL Pro-Choice, the NRDC Action Fund, and Peace Action.

Progressive Massachusetts

("Progressive Mass") is a statewide, member-driven grassroots organization with activists from across Massachusetts who advocate for progressive policy. Progressive Mass has 16 chapters across the Commonwealth including Boston, Lowell, Needham, the South Shore, and Woburn.

Senator Markey has served in the United States Senate since winning the special election in 2013 and has amassed a deep record on environmental, climate, gun safety, and consumer protection issues. His leadership has led to legislation to address the humanitarian crisis on the southern border, protect LGBTQ+ rights, and ensure that Donald Trump cannot launch a nuclear first strike without Congressional approval. Raised in Malden, Ed Markey has always stood up for the priorities of Massachusetts.



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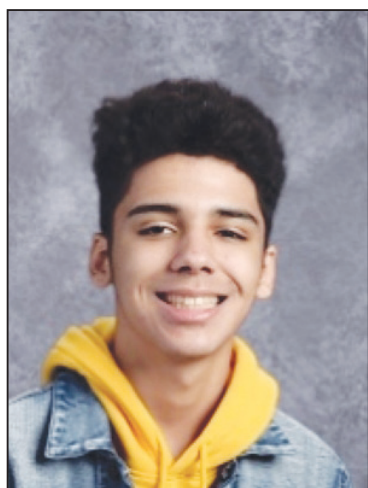
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# Lynn English senior, Gutierrez, awarded Northeastern University Torch Scholarship

Lynn English High School is proud to announce that senior Allen Gutierrez has been awarded the Northeastern University Torch Scholarship. Valued at almost \$300,000, Torch Scholars receive eight semesters of full scholarship aid, covering tuition, room and board, books and fees. Continuing Northeastern University's century-old commitment to educational opportunity, the Torch Scholars Program is a bold and innovative initiative that provides students with the opportunity to explore their passions and expand their global horizons. The program's nomination and holistic review process identifies bright students from across the country who have succeeded against the odds. Torch is dedicated to supporting these talented, first-generation college students through an extensive full-scholarship program that includes: a comprehensive summer immersion program, intensive academic planning and assessments, in-depth peer and professional mentoring, and a wide array of social events that foster group identity and camaraderie. The program is simply



Allen Gutierrez.

unparalleled in its support for first-generation students from diverse backgrounds. Much more than a scholarship, Torch is a comprehensive model for access, retention, and achievement. Torch Scholars have a drive to succeed—for their families and for themselves—and exhibit a universal commitment to giving back, completing 100 hours of service each academic year. The scholars possess the ability and the will to succeed—Torch transforms them into leaders by

empowering them to put those qualities into action. Lynn English Principal Thomas Strangie would like to congratulate Allen, his family, and all the Lynn Public Schools teachers who educat-

ed and supported him throughout the years! Principal Strangie would also like to acknowledge Lauren Mezzetti, a dear colleague who suddenly passed away about a month ago. Allen

was a Science Aide for Ms. Mezzetti, and she was a huge supporter of Allen throughout the Torch Scholarship application process. She would be so proud of Allen's accomplishment.

## How to mail and ship without leaving the safety of your home

You don't have to go to the Post Office to use many postal products and services. In fact, most simple tasks can be done from the convenience and safety of your home with or without a computer.

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I understand there are a bunch of unknowns with this pandemic but know this; East Boston Savings Bank has endured many devastating events in the past and has come through each of these stronger and more committed to our customers than ever.

Thank you for trusting in East Boston Savings Bank. Stay safe and we look forward to continuing working hard for you.

Sincerely,

Richard J. Gavegnano  
President, CEO and Chairman  
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